

*Maritime OPINTEL Report*

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report**

19 December 2012 – 16 January 2013

17 January 2013

*Maritime Crime/Piracy***(U) Table of Contents**

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 January a bulk carrier was boarded at the Chittagong Anchorage.

2. (U) CONGO: On 15 January a container ship was boarded at the Pointe Noire Anchorage.

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 January a bulk carrier was boarded at the Balikpapan Anchorage.

4. (U) SINGAPORE: On 08 January a tug with barge in tow were both boarded approximately 4.01 nm southwest of the Western Islands.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for January and February 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for January and February 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-299), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for January and February 2013. For Further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for January 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammail.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for January 2013. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru or Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN:** No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA:**

(U) GUYANA: On 09 January the LPG Tanker CONISTON was boarded in the vicinity of Ramsburg Terminal, Georgetown. Two robbers armed with guns and long knives boarded a berthed LPG tanker from the offshore side by using a grappling hook. They took the C/O and shore security guard as hostage, proceeded to the master's cabin and stole ship's cash and escaped. No injury to crew. (IMB)

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:** No current incidents to report.

G. (U) **WEST AFRICA:**

1. (U) CONGO: On 15 January a container ship was boarded at 04:43 S – 011:46 E, at the Pointe Noire Anchorage. Three robbers armed with knives disguised as fishermen in a small boat approached and boarded the anchored container ship. Duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed in their boat. Port control was contacted, but received no response. (IMB)

2. (U) IVORY COAST: On 23 December the chemical tanker MADONNA 1 was boarded at 05:12 N – 004:02 W, at the Abidjan anchorage. Robbers armed with machine guns and knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker and took the crew hostage. They forced the Chief Engineer and Master to start the engines however as the engines had been disengaged by the crew the vessels could not sail. The robbers threatened and hit the crew and then locked the crew in the engine room while they ransacked the crew cabins. Prior escaping the robbers damaged some communication equipment and stole ship stores. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 December the supply vessel ASSO VENTUNO was boarded and crew kidnapped at 04:01 N – 005:14 E, approximately 40 nm off the coastline of Bayelsa. Pirates armed with guns attacked and boarded an offshore supply vessel underway, and kidnapped four crew members. No injuries to the remaining crew members. The vessel continued on its passage to a safe port. (IMB, BBC, IMO)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) YEMEN: On 08 January a tanker experienced suspicious approach at 12:40 N – 043:16 E, at Bab El Mandeb. About 5-6 persons each in two skiffs doing 14 knots approached a gas carrier ship underway. Alarm raised, anti-piracy measures initiated, distress message was transmitted and the armed security team on board fired a warning flare and showed their weapons. One skiff slowed down but the other skiff continued its approach and closed to 200 meters from the tanker. The armed team fired two more warning shots but the skiffs ignored the warning shots and continue to approach the tanker. Further shots were fired across the lead skiff's bow resulting in the skiffs aborting and moving away. (IMB)

2. (U) SOMALIA: On 05 January the container ship MSC JASMINE fired upon at 03:07 N – 051:51 E, approximately 400nm east-northeast of Mogadishu. Six pirates in a skiff chased and fired upon a container ship using automatic weapons and an RPG. Vessel raised alarm, crew mustered in citadel and armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the pirates aborting and moving away. A warship and naval helicopter were dispatched towards the vessel. Crew and vessel are safe. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) INDIA: On 03 January the Bulk cargo vessel JADE SKY was boarded at 22:49 N – 070:03 E, at the Kandla port anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier, broke into the forecastle store room, stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 01 January a merchant vessel experienced suspicious approach in the vicinity of 02:18 N – 046:02 E, approximately 42 nm northeast of Mogadishu, Somalia and approximately 7 nm off the Somali coast. The activity consisted of four skiffs, very few other details have been released and the incident is being investigated further. (TW)

5. (U) OMAN: On 27 December a merchant vessel experienced suspicious approach at 0535 UTC near positions 26:17 N – 056:43 E in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 22 nm east of Al Kasab, Oman. The activity consisted of two skiffs, with the first skiff approaching the merchant ship to within 500 meters; with possible weapons sighted. Vessels armed embarked security team fired flares and the skiff moved away. The second skiff approached to within 200 meters. Embarked security team again fired a warning flare but there was no response from the second skiff. Vessel security team then fired two warning shots to the side of the second skiff. Skiffs then broke off the approach and departed the area. Vessel is safe. (NSC)

6. (U) IRAN: On 20 December the tanker TSURUMI was boarded at 24:46 N – 57:54 E, approximately 25 nm South of Bandar-e-Jask. The tanker underway en route to Fujairah sighted a speed boat approaching at a speed of around 25 knots. The Master raised alarm, activated SSAS, sent distress alert, took evasive maneuvers; crew mustered and closed all accommodation doors. The distress alert was acknowledged by UKMTO and a helicopter was seen approaching the location. When the boat was around 0.5nm from the tanker five masked persons with weapons and a RPG were identified. Seeing the helicopter the boat altered and moved away from the tanker. (IMO)

I. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 January a bulk carrier was boarded at 22:17 N – 091:43 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Five robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain during cargo operations. The Second Mate noticed the robbers and asked the deck watchman to check. While approaching the forecandle, the deck watchman was threatened by three robbers. The Master ordered the crew to enter inside the accommodation and lock the access. The Second Mate directed the spot light towards the robbers, whom then escaped thru the anchor chain. Upon inspection, it was found ship's properties were stolen. Port control and coast guard were informed; a navy/coast guard boat arrived and searched for the robbers. (IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 January the bulk carrier HUA HENG 167 was boarded at 01:11 S – 116:46 E, at the Balikpapan Anchorage. Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain. Duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. All crew mustered and rushed to the forecandle. On seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their speed boat. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) SINGAPORE: On 08 January the tug DE HUI with the barge HAIYANGSHIYOU in tow was boarded at 01:11 N - 103:37 E, approximately 4.01 nm Southwest of the Western Islands. A speedboat with five robbers wearing camouflage uniforms approached the tug at 17:10 LT. Two robbers boarded the tug and took hostage the duty Bosun and held him face down at knife point. Master raised the alarm and all crew mustered. Seeing the alert crew, the robbers left the tug without stealing anything. Then, at 2320 LT, approximately six robbers in a speed boat approached and boarded the barge under tow, stole barge properties and escaped. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 04 January the chemical tanker HISTRIA PRINCE was boarded at 01:16 S – 116:49 E, at the Balikpapan Port Jetty No.5 C. Four robbers approached a chemical

tanker at berth while engaged in loading operations. One of the robbers boarded the vessel by climbing the forward fire wire, stole ship's properties and escaped. The incident was reported to the local agent and the port authorities. (IMB, IMO)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 December the bulk carrier NORD DISCOVERY was boarded at 03:44 S – 114:25 E, at the Taboneo anchorage. Duty crew on board the anchored bulk carrier found the lock of the forward store broken. On checking, he saw the ship's stores lying on the deck and the robbers escaping in their two boats without stealing anything. (IMO)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 December the bulk carrier SANKO MERCURY was boarded at 03:43 S – 114:27 E, at the Taboneo anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier while waiting to commence loading operations. Robbers broke into the forward bosun store, stole ship's stores and properties and escaped unnoticed. The incident occurred between 29.12.2012, 2300 LT to 30.12.2012, 0400 LT and was reported to the local agent and the port authorities. (IMO, IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 December the chemical tanker CLIPPER KAREN was boarded at 03:57 N – 098:46 E, at the Belawan anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker receiving provisions, stole ships property and escaped unnoticed. Upon investigation it was found that the robbers gained access to the forecandle by breaking through the razor wire. Local agent and the port authorities informed. (IMB, IMO)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS**: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence

Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://www.nga.mil/portal/site/maritime>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)

- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 16 January 2013